



# Central Lutheran Church

the Messenger newsletter

**Central Lutheran Church**  
1420 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-277-1622 phone  
centluth@gmail.com  
<http://www.centluth.org>



**Pastor**

Interim Pastor Mark Galbraith centluth@gmail.com

**Office Manager**

Kathy Freeman centluth@gmail.com

**Financial & Membership Secretary**

Karen Voris centluth@gmail.com

**Treasurer** Kathy Dale

**Choir Director** Tai Wai Li

**Bell Choir Director & Organist** Debbie Pankow

**Custodian** Rey Nelvis

**Find our congregation at**

<http://www.facebook.com/centluth>



## COMING EVENTS

Sundays

9:30 am Worship service

Tuesdays

7 am Early AM Study

Wednesdays

Noon Divine Drama

5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal

7 pm Lent Worship service

7:30 pm Choir rehearsal

Saturday 3/1 at 9 am Men's

Breakfast @ Kava's on Muldoon

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Mediterranean Potluck March 2

Ash Wednesday March 5 at 7 pm

IOBY Movie Night, Tuesday March 18



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Lent

Gods beloved people:

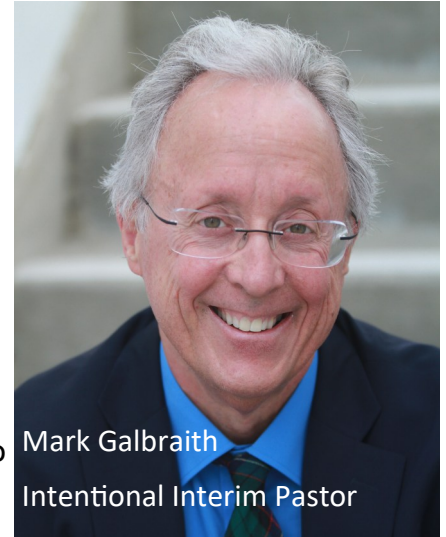
Hard to believe that we are already at the doorsteps of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, when it seems like we just welcomed in the new year 2025.

We have much to celebrate already in this new year 2025. We are now in “phase 3” of the interim ministry process. A call committee was voted on at the annual meeting January 19, they met with Bishop Tim early February for an orientation on how to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), and they have been diligently at work on that task. The call committee will keep you apprised as appropriate vis-a-vis progress as to all aspects of their work during this exciting phase.

I remind you that it takes on average 2 to 4 months for a call committee to complete the MSP, from the day they were elected by the congregation to the posting of the MSP on the ELCA national database. This is a critical aspect of the whole interim process, as the MSP will be the first impression potential candidates will get of Central Lutheran’s storied history, ministry, and goals and dreams for the next chapter of ministry, including guiding goals that will inform the shape of nature of the next chapter of ministry.

Candidates will want to be excited about Central’s ministry and future, with the hopes that their gifts for ministry and skills will be a potential match to partner with Central to bring these goals to life. Please continue to pray for the call

committee in their work and completion of the MSP, as well as the upcoming interview phase. Please know that God is already busy preparing who will be the next pastor for Central



Mark Galbraith  
Intentional Interim Pastor

Lutheran Church as well as continuing to prepare the great and holy people of Central for the next chapter of ministry.

In the meantime, our superpowers are to continue to do all current ministries with excellence, joy, and passion they deserve. Also, please continue to give strong financial support to all Central’s ministries and operations. I can guarantee you that one thing candidates for Call will be looking at very closely is Central’s financial history and support as part of their own discernment.

Please keep watch for notices and updates of what’s coming up for the season of Lent. It includes a traditional Ash Wednesday service, midweek lent vesper services, and during the Sundays and Lent, I will be presenting a series of teaching sermons on the liturgy, why we do what we do as we do during our worship services.

We are heirs of a centuries long liturgical tradition that has been a source of blessing for so many

communities of faith for so long. As we understand better why we do what we do during worship as well as the logic and flow of the liturgical structure, the better worshipping community we will be. The goal and end-game of what we do during Sunday worship is be equipped with good news so that we are sent out to be proclaim of the good news of God's love for the world finally and fully in Jesus of Nazareth.

On a personal note, thank you once again for all your expressions of support, love, and prayers, during my continued recovery from spinal fusion surgery. At my recent six week post-op follow up

appointment, I was released for driving, traveling by air, into outpatient physical therapy, and to work back into my fitness program. I am ahead of schedule in terms of my recovery, which I credit my nutrition and fitness program I try to follow diligently. Consistent and ongoing exercising good nutrition habits pays dividends. Thank you again for your continued support and prayers, and I want you to know how grateful I am for all of that.

Faithfully in partnership,

Pastor Mark

## *Worship & Study*

† Sundays 9:30 am worship service

† Ash Wednesday, March 5, worship service at 7 pm; and weekly Lent services at 7 pm Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9

† The Early AM Study continues with weekly meetings via zoom (meeting ID 963 8911 9335 and contact the office if you need the password) at 7 am to study When In Romans by Beverly Roberts Gaventa.

† The Divine Drama meets Wednesdays, Noon-1:30 pm, in the Cordova Room and via our regular zoom link

† Confirmation classes resume after Easter.

† Craig Carlson leads an adult ed class each Sunday after worship. His focus will be "After Augustine – Before Luther: The Mid-life Crisis of Christianity" and the class will continue through Lent. No book needed.

## *Mediterranean Potluck*

Sunday, March 2, we'll share a potluck with a Mediterranean foods theme at 5 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Deacon Linda Bender will share a photo show on her "Footsteps of Paul" visit to Turkey and Greece. Please bring a dish to share — ideas include salads, hummus and veggies, pasta, kabobs, gyros, pita, falafel . . .

Your 2025 Council met for the first time on Sunday, February 16. We began by welcoming the newly elected members to the council, and went around the table to introduce ourselves to them and each other. Joining the council this year are 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ingrid Miller, and our first-ever youth member, Josie Martin, neither of whom have served before. We were also happy to welcome back Hank Koegel, David Braun and Carol Norquist, former council members who agreed to accept another 3-year term.

**Installations:** We agreed that the Call Committee would be installed during the February 23<sup>rd</sup> worship service, and the Council Members at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> service. We ask your blessings as these two committees work individually and together to secure the future of our congregation and the work we do.

**Committee Reports:** Steve Lambert gave the financial report for Treasurer Kathy Dale, who was out of state. He reported with giving down this month and utility costs up, our net income for the month was a negative \$4,126.42. Larry Helgeson reported from the Property Committee on the progress for the signage to be posted around our grounds.

He received a quote of \$2,200 for these to be done professionally, but also presented some alternative ideas for ways for us to do these on our own.



More to come here. Annette Iverson introduced the idea of members possibly “adopting” a sign to help defray this cost. Also in adoption mode, Lisa Bulkow suggested the possibility of members adopting a solar panel to help defray our energy costs. Every idea is important and worth looking into.

**Committee Liaisons:** We have many committees working to keep things moving. While the actions of some are obvious, others work silently behind the scenes to make things happen right and as needed. As a council, we need to know what is happening in our congregation, and as a congregation, we need to know to whom we can turn if we see a need. Therefore, we have always had liaisons from each committee to the council, to report at each council meeting. Whether it is a “thank you,” or a special need or concern, you have someone who will bring your concern to the council for discussion and action. As I have always said, communication is a two-way street. I ask that

committee members and liaisons reach out to each other to communicate anything that affects your committee and the important work you do. A list of the committees, and the council members who agreed to serve as liaisons this year is printed in this issue of the Messenger. If you have a need or concern and don't know who is on the committee to address your question, contact the respective council liaison to relay your message.

Please, let's keep the communication alive and open.

I will be out of town at our March Council Meeting, and have asked Vice President John Bulkow to take over in my absence. Please come to John with anything you would like to see brought up at the March Meeting.

Yours in Christ, Birte Eliassen, Council President

Committee Liaisons:

Stewardship	Past President Steve Lambert, chair
Education	Lisa Bulkow
Fellowship	Birte Eliassen
Worship	Paula Zawodny
Youth	Josie Martin
Property	Larry Helgeson
Finance	Carol Norquist
Church In Society	Julie Graham
Evangelism	
Scholarship	Hank Koegel
Personnel	Ingrid Miller
Nominating	Pastor
Endowment	Kathy Dale

*Central Lutheran is praying for...*

March ELCA Alaska prayer partner: Christ Lutheran Church of Fairbanks

*Central members or close family of our members who've passed in the last year:*  
 Faye Gilmore (David Dale's life partner), Brenda Engelby, Dave Hillemeier, Michael Griggs (nephew of Sharon Jones), Doris Ziegler (mother of James Ziegler), Judith Moore, Linda Padden, Rev. Luther Abrahamson, George Rhyneer, Kay Zernia, Lila Ward (Lorna Nelson's mother), Carol West-Dahl (Lori Dahl's mom), Rev. Myrin Bentz, Marie Brown, Bill Kosteki (brother in law of Eva Wissmann), Larry Menkens (father of Stacey Menkens), Calvin Whitmire (Paul Harris's stepdad), Ed Mjolsnes, Alice Pierce (Nathaniel Pierce's mother), Glenda Hanson (Anita Soiseth's mother)



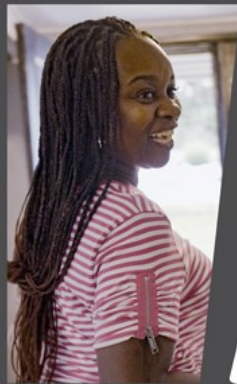


UNTIL

WE'RE

ALL

A FILM SERIES ABOUT SOLVING HOMELESSNESS



HOME.



**7 pm Tuesday, March 18**

**Central Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall**

Educational Opportunity: The movement to solve homelessness is as vast and diverse as the issue that it is tackling. **This movie tells the stories** of people all across the U.S., who've experienced homelessness, social workers providing vital support, leaders challenging the status quo, and partners bringing resources and guidance into this beautiful struggle, making up a vibrant mosaic that is rarely documented in its complexity. There will be discussion after the movie.

**Free admission** - but if you want to bring something for the food bank or a snack to share, that would be welcome.



# Birthdays



*Wish a happy birthday to:*

Rich Monroe	3/2	David Wright	3/17	June Zigrang	3/23
Allen Smith	3/2	Daniel Harris	3/18	Stephanie Bauer	3/24
Eric Andrew	3/4	Mark Rayburn	3/18	Brynley Birch	3/24
Kristin Hanson	3/4	Tilly Reece	3/19	Mark Luiten	3/25
Signe Coady-McMahon	3/6	Mae Reece	3/19	Debbie Pankow	3/25
Barbara Luiten	3/6	Mary Tesche	3/19	Lynsey Luiten	3/27
Rev. Inger Hanson	3/7	Sterling Wanamaker	3/19	Kate Nelson	3/27
Ted Kelly	3/7	Linda Bender	3/20	Scott Strand	3/28
Christopher Stoda	3/7	Dianne Hillemeier	3/20	Hayden Jones	3/29
Barney Holtzman	3/9	Amy Helgeson	3/22	Jenny Nordgaard	3/30
Evelina Lyle	3/13	Liberty Helgeson	3/23	Wendy Bergman	3/31
Barb Keys	3/16	Judith Muller	3/23	John Brewer	3/31

# Anniversaries

*Wish a happy anniversary to:*

Hedric & Kristin Hanson	3/3	Dale & Helga Huelskoetter	3/19
Stephanie & Jerry Birch	3/4	Michael & Cheryl DeMetz	3/22
Connie & Jean Boecker	3/15	Kevin & Aletta Jocius	3/27
		Holly & John Cannon	3/29

## SYNOD YOUTH SUMMER TRIP

**Where:** Fairbanks, AK

**When:** June 23-27, 2025

**Who:** Current 5th - 12th graders

**What:** Adventure & Service

- River float in rafts
- Service projects
- Hiking

**How much:** \$100 deposit

- Pay to your local church
  - Scholarships available
- **DEADLINE: March 1, 2025**

Find click-able links in our weekly eNews or the online version of this newsletter.

YOUTH:

<https://forms.gle/DuaVXbxhkqTpdVMEA>

and  
ADULT LEADER /  
DRIVER:

<https://forms.gle/S7zKaw8qv-naeNYB27>



Anchorage

# FARMERS MARKET



## Saturdays

## 9 am - 2 pm

## May 17 - October 11

## at 15th & Cordova

Free parking

Alaska grown local foods



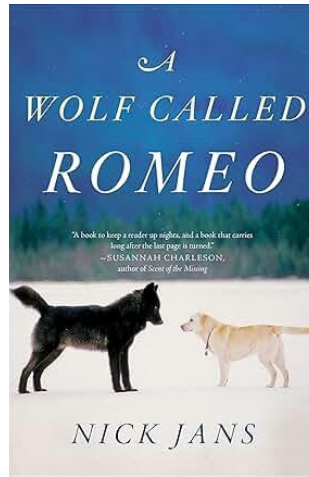
# Market opens May 17





## Study:

**Book Group** is reading A Wolf Called Romeo by Nick Jans. From the award-winning author and photographer, “a thoughtful and moving story about one of nature’s most evocative animals” (Patricia B. McConnell, author of *The Other End of the Leash*). *A Wolf Called Romeo* is the true story of the exceptional black wolf who spent seven years interacting with the people and dogs of Juneau, Alaska, living on the edges of their community, engaging in an improbable, awe-inspiring interspecies dance, and bringing the wild into sharp focus. Discuss with friends on Monday, March 17, at 4:30 pm.



**Confirmation class** and kids' and adult faith formation classes resume after Easter.

Craig Carlson leads an **adult ed class** each Sunday after worship. His focus will be “After Augustine – Before Luther: The Mid-life Crisis of Christianity” and the class will continue through Lent.

Ladies, our monthly **Gather Bible study** meets at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays, next on March 10. Bring a *Gather* magazine or share ours.

Gentlemen - **Breakfast & Bible Study** meets first Saturdays, next on March 1, at 9 am at Kava's.

## Fellowship:

Central Seniors and friends - **coffee klatsche** every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive.

**Sarah Southside Circle** meets first Tuesdays for fellowship, next on Tuesday, March 4, for coffee at 10:30 am at Bells on Specking Road. All are welcome!

Join our multi-generational group of **pickleball** players. We play most Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall, often 4:45-6:15 pm. Text Christi at 646.710.0805 for details. All skill levels welcome—invite a friend—need not be a member!

## Serve:

Year-round, we collect **shelf-stable foods for LSSA** Food Pantry. Our March focus will be cereals.

## News

# News

## News

Our **Helping Hands Clothing Closet** continues to welcome visitors about eight days monthly who are in need of socks, gloves, blankets, backpacks, outdoor gear, and clothing -- the fastest to go are smaller adult sizes. Donations may be new or used but usable, and are welcome during closet hours, office hours, or worship services.

Fourth Thursdays of the month, we provide the **evening meal to the residents of Clare House** women's and children's shelter. THANK YOU to Becky Schaeffer, Sue Tonkins, Jean Boecker, Sandy McKinney, Paula Zawodny, Annette Iverson, Sue Ellen Tatter, Carol Coady for the February 27 meal of soups and fresh breads.

## News:

Our **Little Free Library** welcomes your gift of used books and magazines, for all age groups.

Sunday, March 2, we'll share a **potluck with a Mediterranean foods theme** at 5 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Deacon Linda Bender will share a photo show on her “Footsteps of Paul” visit to Turkey and Greece. Please bring a dish to share — ideas include salads, hummus and veggies, pasta, kabobs, gyros, pita, falafel, and more.

Central administers a couple of **college scholarships for ELCA schools** including Pacific Lutheran University. Do you know of a high school senior that may wish to apply for one or more? <https://www.centruth.org/scholarships>

**Call Committee update:** The call committee is meeting weekly on Tuesday evenings. Carol Norquist and Sklyer Harris are serving as committee spokespersons for those with questions on the process.

Current **5th through 12th grade youth**, register now to save your spot for the Synod Youth trip to Fairbanks this June. Scholarships are available for the \$100 registration cost. (see page 7)  
YOUTH: <https://forms.gle/DuaVXbxhkgTpdVMEA> and  
ADULT LEADER / DRIVER: <https://forms.gle/S7zKaw8qvnaeNYB27>

**In Our Backyard** will host a **movie night** with a screening of Until We're All Home on Tuesday, March 18th at 7 pm, in our Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and stay for discussion following. (see page 6)

**Women of the ELCA: Central Lutheran & Alaska Synod**

Ladies, please save the date: **Saturday, March 29**, we'll host a **spring Virtual Retreat** in partnership with other congregations as a part of the Alaska Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO). The theme is "Gather" and we'll gather both here at Central Lutheran and at churches in Soldotna, Fairbanks and beyond, using technology to come together as a larger group. On site, we'll share a meal, sing, study a Bible passage with Rev. Sandra Rudd, learn from special guest Elizabeth Hunter (editor of *Gather* magazine), and focus on how we can gather in groups, gather resources to share with others, and perhaps even consider how traditions can gather dust that needs to be swept

GATHER  
GATHER  
**GATHER**  
*with us*  
GATHER  
GATHER

aside for new growth. The event will be shared on zoom.us for those who cannot attend in person at one of the participating churches.

Our focus verse is Hebrews 10:24-25<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Karen Voris and Kathy Freeman are organizing, as members of the Alaska Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO) board.

Each year LSSA provides Easter baskets for young children of families who visit the food pantry. Each basket contains a book of The Easter Story, small games/toys, candy treats etc. A group of ladies collect items and prepare baskets at LSSA. We are collecting these suggested items and would welcome your contributions:


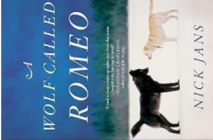

- Plastic buckets/pails
- "Grass"
- Plastic eggs
- Small stuffed animals
- Play Doh (small 1 oz cans)
- Bubbles (no larger than 6 oz)
- Crayons (8, 16 or 24 count boxes)
- Coloring/activity books
- Small "fidget" toys
- Card games
- Small toys—check party favor areas at Target, Walmart etc.
- Individual packets of Goldfish or other crackers
- Individual packets of Fruit Snacks
- Individually wrapped candies
- Other small, fun items



Items may be brought to the church office. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

# March 2025 - Central Lutheran Church

(Please note: This calendar lists church-related events only. Numerous community-related events take place in the building. To schedule space for an event, please contact the church office.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:15 am worship committee  <b>9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith</b>            10:45 am Adult Ed with Craig Carlson  <b>5 pm Potluck with Mediterranean food theme &amp; "Footsteps of Paul" photos show</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7 am Early AM Study            9:30 am Altar Guild            10:30 am Sarah Southside Circle @ Bells on Specking Road            1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open            4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p><b>5 Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>8:30 am Coffee Klatsch            Noon-1:30 pm Divine Drama            5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  <b>7 pm ASH WEDS SERVICE</b>            7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7 OSB no school</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9 am Men's Breakfast @ Kava's on Muldoon  <i>10 am - Noon Admittared hospitality</i></p> <p><i>tonight:</i></p> 
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith</b>            10:45 am Adult Ed with Craig Carlson</p>	<p><b>10 OSB spring break</b></p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting            2 pm Women's Gather Bible Study</p>	<p><b>11 OSB spring break</b></p> <p>7 am Early AM Study            1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open            4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p><b>12 OSB spring break</b></p> <p>8:30 am Coffee Klatsch            Noon-1:30 pm Divine Drama            5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  <b>7 pm LENT SERVICE</b>            7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13 OSB spring break</b></p> <p>Noon Finance Committee</p>	<p><b>14 OSB spring break</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>11 am - 2 pm Foot &amp; Wound Clinic open            Noon - 2 pm Listening Post open            1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8 am Church Council  <b>9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith</b>            10:45 am Adult Ed with Craig Carlson</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b></p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting            4:30 pm Book Group discusses <b>A Wolf Called Romeo</b> by Nick Jans</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7 am Early AM Study            1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open            1:30 pm Staff meeting            4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball            7 pm In Our Backyard            Movie Night: <u>Until We're All Home</u></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:30 am Coffee Klatsch            10 am Kitchen Cleaning            Noon-1:30 pm Divine Drama            5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  <b>7 pm LENT SERVICE</b>            7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith</b>            10:45 am Adult Ed with Craig Carlson</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7 am Early AM Study            1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open            4:45-6:15 pm Pickleball</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:30 am Coffee Klatsch            Noon-1:30 pm Divine Drama            5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  <b>7 pm LENT SERVICE</b>            7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>by 3 pm Volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House shelter</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>2:30 pm Caring Ministers Meeting @ Dahna's</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>11 am-2 pm Ladies— "Gather" Virtual Retreat @ Central and via zoom.us</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am WORSHIP with Rev. Mark Galbraith</b>            10:45 am Adult Ed with Craig Carlson</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting</p>				<p>Movie night on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 pm:</p> 	

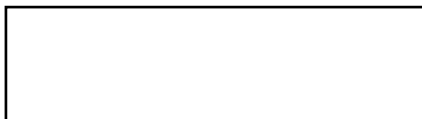


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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2025



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Central Lutheran Church is here for you.** We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the church office (277-1622) as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or a friend dies;
- Hospital or home visitation would be a blessing;
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism or wedding;
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving;
- You move or change your telephone numbers or email.

***Please contact the church office if your address has changed or you no longer wish to be on our mailing list. Thank you!***

**Central Lutheran Prayer Chain** will sincerely pray for your needs, joys and sorrows. Our prayer chain always welcomes new links. If you would like to contact the prayer chain with a prayer request or become a part of the chain, please contact Karen Emmel or the Church office.

